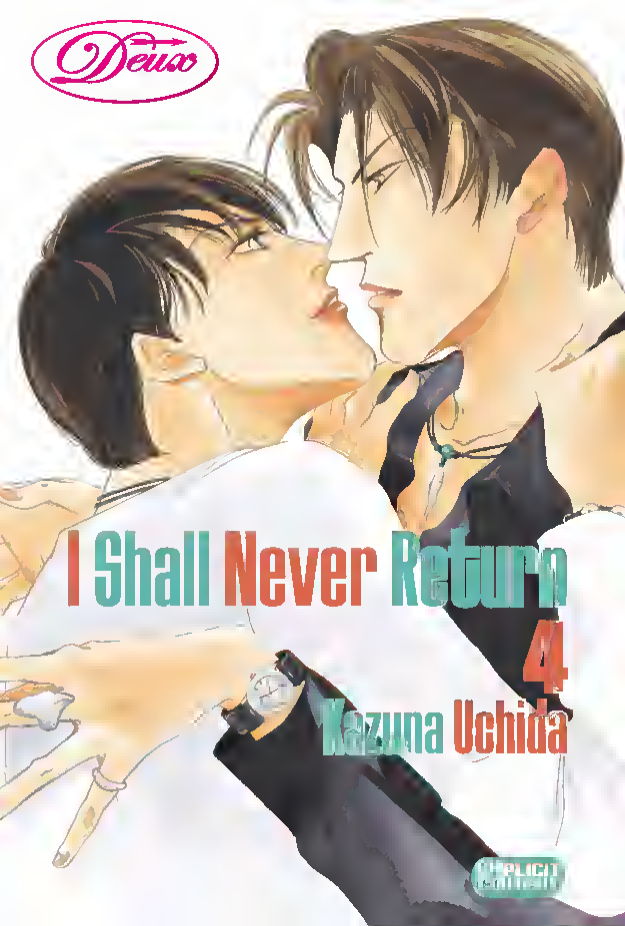

Deux
I Shall Never Return
4
Kazuna Uchida
EXPLICIT CONTENT

I Shall Never Return

4

Kazuna Uchida

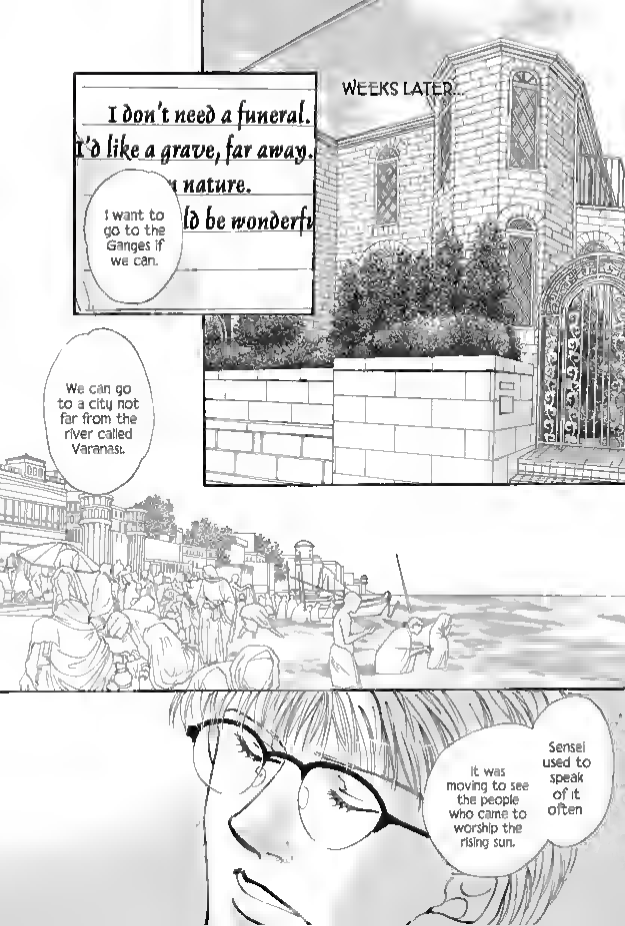
act one

Act one

After awhile, we began to think about the meaning of love.
As we got lost in each other's eyes, without speaking, the time passed quickly, like some cruel trick of the mind.
We searched for the answer, from many different angles, but we couldn't find it.
We couldn't find the answer...

Even so

I'm
...gonna
go with
J


I don't need a funeral.
I'd like a grave, far away.
nature.
ld be wonderfu
I want to go to the Ganges if we can.
WEEKS LATER...
We can go to a city not far from the river called Varanasi.
It was moving to see the people who came to worship the rising sun.
Sensei used to speak of it often

What do you think Sunahara?
The will was addressed to *you*, Master Jun I'm sure that whatever you decide...
...will make him happy.
I
I wanna come too.
Maybe you should wait until you've gotten settled
Don't worry I'll work it out with Ritsuro
Ken

I'm leaving Japan for Singapore the day after tomorrow
All right then
...you sure are stubborn, just like Shoko
Well I am her son
Make sure you go to the Indian Consulate and get a visa
OK, get two tickets.
JUNE
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

Your first choice is in Tokyo.
POST GRADUATION PLANS
Student number 23 : Ritsu Yoshinari
First Choice:
Second Choice:
Third Choice:
Futatsubashi University
Joui University
YOSHINARI
THE RAINY SEASON THIS YEAR WAS LONG.
AND COLD.
WOOSH
WOOSH
WOOSH
Ritsu
I just listed my top choices besides, I'll only go if I get accepted
Why do you need to go to Tokyo? There are lots of good schools close by
Hmph
Say something dear
UNEASE
What's the problem? Futatsubashi is my alma mater, after all
I'd be happy if you went there-

Besides, it'll be a good opportunity for him to cut ties with that Amafuji boy.
You can do it.
I have high hopes for you Ritsuro
Well I won't get in your way.
Nami
You can do it, Big Bro!
You seem totally down
Feeling the pressure, huh?

I've made up my mind...
...I've already decided.
So I have to spend every day without you
You think that makes me happy?
TOTALLY DOWN, HUH?
You... you look after me. I can't live my life with you looking after me forever.

I don't think that's right!
Is it because you've got J now?
Are you saying that you can live just fine without me...
..Ken?
TEACHERS' OFFICE
I'll work as hard as I can! Thank you!
BOW

NOISY
CLICK
Yumioka what happened with Iwasaki?
When did he become so respectful?
Did he give up on Todai?
Yeah. I convinced him to apply to other colleges
Sigh
Looks like we're the only ones in our class trying for schools in Tokyo
Yeah
I'm glad the rain's stopped
Mm
SQUEEZE

Let's study at my house today
I could care less!
Y-You dumbass, people will see...
Hey
Kazu-yoshi
Forget Math- I'm way behind in English and Civics.
Teach me!
Is this really OK?

阪急高槻市駅
HANKYU TAKATSUKI STATION
AM I REALLY OK WITH THIS?
40
PARKING

She's hopeless...
You're really something else, Michiru. See you tomorrow!
See ya!
HANKYU PASSENGERS
Man, I can't believe I actually bought it! I'll be totally broke for the rest of the month.
Yeah, but you really wanted that dress, right?
Yeah... So I think I'll pass on tea today
Aww...

Hanabi Passengers

SQUEAK
How's it going with Ritsuro?

阪急高槻市駅
HANKYU TAKATSUKI-SHI STATION
Moeko
Sorry... I wasn't trying to...
It's just that you look so lonely

HANKYU PASSENGERS
Are you going to...do something about it?
You're such a goody-two-shoes.
What's it to *you* if I look lonely?
It's Ritsuro I'm worried about.
I'm his friend, so...
You need to learn to mind your own business!
Ken—
I'm in a hurry!
GRAB
I've been doing a lot of thinking.
Hey, wait! We should talk—
!

Oh!
Ah!
SHHSH
CLUNK
I'm..
..I'm sorry..
Visa Information for Travelers
Consulate General of India
JAPAN

Hey what is all this? You're going alone? For how long?
What does he think about this?
Just back off
A visa?
You're going to India?
Ritsuro's not going right?
I can't,
Not..
.. with you looking so sad
Moeko ..

Did you sleep with Moeko?
Huh?
You guys went out, right?
Quit it. She's a friend of mine now

That you realized you'd rather be with guys?
So... when was it then?
And there's the bell! Now it's time for Sex Ed! ♡
Uh.
Y-You've got it all wrong...
English III
KAZUYOSHI.
It's important You gotta know this stuff!
SLIP
Sex Ed?!

For me, it was right after high school started
Was it Ken?
There was a time when I thought maybe I'd sell my body too
So Ken took me to a hotel
The customer was some sleezy guy in his fifties
Psssst, I came cos you said it'd be a woman.
But he...
Sit there and watch us.
Then you can join us if you're feelin' it.

He, he made me watch while that old guy fucked him.
And he seemed to be enjoying it.
Haha
I jerked off in the bathroom while I listened to them fucking.
It was really pitiful.
Did you want to sleep with Ken?

I WANTED KEN ..
Kazu-yoshi... I...
Not as much as I want to sleep with... ...you.
I DIDN'T WANT ANYONE INSIDE HIM BUT ME.
I THOUGHT MY FEELINGS WERE WRONG.
I THOUGHT THEY WERE DIRTY
BUT...
...I COULDN'T HELP IT

...I don't think I can, the way I am right now.
I don't know if I can make him happy...
I've been doin a lot of thinking, too
Ken...
I decided to leave my dirty past behind and become someone new for him

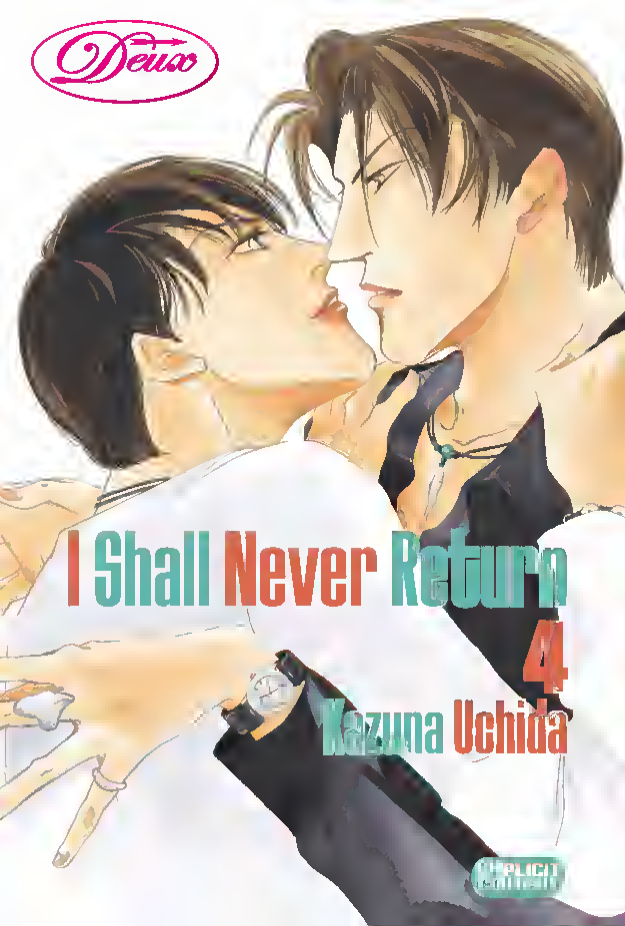
But just living a normal life didn't change much. He still protected me
Sure, I didn't cause as much trouble that way but that was all.
Is that why you want to study photography with your stepfather?
It's not that I want to become a professional photographer.
It's
more
This is a challenge to my old self

A challenge... to your old self?
When my dream comes true, and I've won against that old me
That s when I ll be able to make him happy
That's what I believe
Ken

Huh?
Thanks for really caring about him
Thanks
Moeko?
I've changed my opinion about you
I never thought you could be so sincere about anything

I want to grow for the person I love, too
I think you're on the right track.
I know Ritsuro will understand
SQUEEZE

I'm sorry Moeko! For everything!
I'm sorry I hurt you...
..please forgive me!
Hey... next time can you show me...
...the pictures you took?


Deux
I Shall Never Return
4
Kazuna Uchida
EXPLICIT CONTENT

But your parents...
Louder!

THUNK
Who cares about them!
Ah..!
THRUST
THRUST
THRUST
OH MY GOD!
Ooh!
THRUST
Ahh!

No, not yet
Kazu— Kazuyoshi— I'm gonna—
THRUST
THRUST
Aah!
HE'S GONNA WRECK ME.
THRUST
I can't, I..
We're just gettin started
Kazu..
I'M GONNA GET TORN APART—
THRUST

THRUST
キラ
THRUST
キ
Ritsu...
PANT
PANT
THRUST
ギ
THRUST
ギ
THRUST
ギン
ギン
THRUST
Hgh
..

Oops
...
You and I are a really good match
To tell you the truth, I'm kinda surprised.
Huh?

You're so pushy!
HMPH!
Never woulda guessed
Oh!
JOLT
Who would've thought you were so sensitive here.
TOUCH
S-Sorry Are you mad?

DETERMINED
My boyfriend
As whom?
Or do you want me to introduce you first?
Your mom and Mayu are downstairs, right?
Even if we put on a CD they still might figure out...
They won't hear us over the noise and the door's locked.

FLOP
You idiot.
Who, me?
Grr...
I won't hide you from anyone!
I'll tell everyone, even my dad
Maye probably was a get it. Enough
Kazu ...
I'd do anything for you. I would!
I love you

I love you too much to hide it from everyone...
...just because we're both guys. That's stupid
It...
Don't you think so?
...WAS ALWAYS SO HARD FOR ME.
I FELT LIKE THE MORE MY LOVE FOR KEN GREW, THE MORE MY HEART ACHED
SO WHY IS IT SO EASY WITH KAZUYOSHI?
Want some more?
Hm?

IT'S LIKE HE FORGIVES ME FOR EVERYTHING.
Sex Ed.
IT'S LIKE HE'S PROTECTING ME.
BUT
Dad!
Hi... Is Ritsuro home?
He hasn't come home from school yet
Nami! Send him away!
Ritsuro has college entrance exams this year. Don't bother him!

SLAM
Dad, stop!
I'm not bother-

CHATTER
CHATTER
Morning!
Morning!
Morning!
Good morning!
Morning!
OHAKA TAKATSU
I was waiting for you.
Moeko?

I need to talk to you about Ken
About Ken?
We...

Visa No.
TOURIST VISA
Oh, no! I'm late!
DISTRICT 8
PARK
SQUEAK
Oh
KNOCK KNOCK
Nami.
Ken?

I think he slept over at a friend's.
Huh?
I think the friend's name was Iwasaki.
Y-Yeah I really need to talk to him—
—where is he?
Ne way!
You wanted here for my brother all night?
SQUEAK
All alone in the park?
Oh
Yeah
TAP
Thanks for telling me Bye—

WE CAN'T...
WHY...?
GO ON LIKE THIS.
...HE'AND I'...

...
Ritsuko?

You said you wanted to talk about Ken, Moeko?
Why drag me all the way out *here* to talk about Ken?
I met him yesterday
What?
We ran into each other
Let me guess he talked about photo-graphy?
Or maybe he was bragging about his new dad, J or whatever his name is, right?
Ritsuro?
Ken's really changed I almost couldn't believe it

He's going to India, right? First Singapore now India
You have to understand Ken's really seri-
I know!
I know he's serious about it all... but...
HE KICKED J OVER ME!
KEN'S THE ONE.. WHO'S DRIFTING AWAY
Moeko!

You're still not over him?
Why don't you get a life
Iwasaki...
Kazu-yoshi...
Ken's always been selfish
But he can't treat Ritsuro like that
So he's going to India with his stepdad, huh?
Iwasaki?
TH-THUMP

Let him reap what he's sewn.
Reap what he's...?
Leaving a guy like Ritsuro to sleep in an empty bed for so long...
K-Kazu, that's not...
CLUTCH
You and Iwasaki..?
How could you?!

I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS
I KNOW THAT... I SHOULD JUST LET HIM DO WHAT HE WANTS LIKE ALWAYS..
Say something!
Ritsuro!
So that's how little you care about him?
...BUT...

...I CAN'T BE ALONE.
IT'S YOU, KEN! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MAKING ME CRAZY.
The way you are now— Ken's too good for you!
Moeko
What is he to you, Ritsuro?!
RUSTLE
TOO GOOD FOR ME?

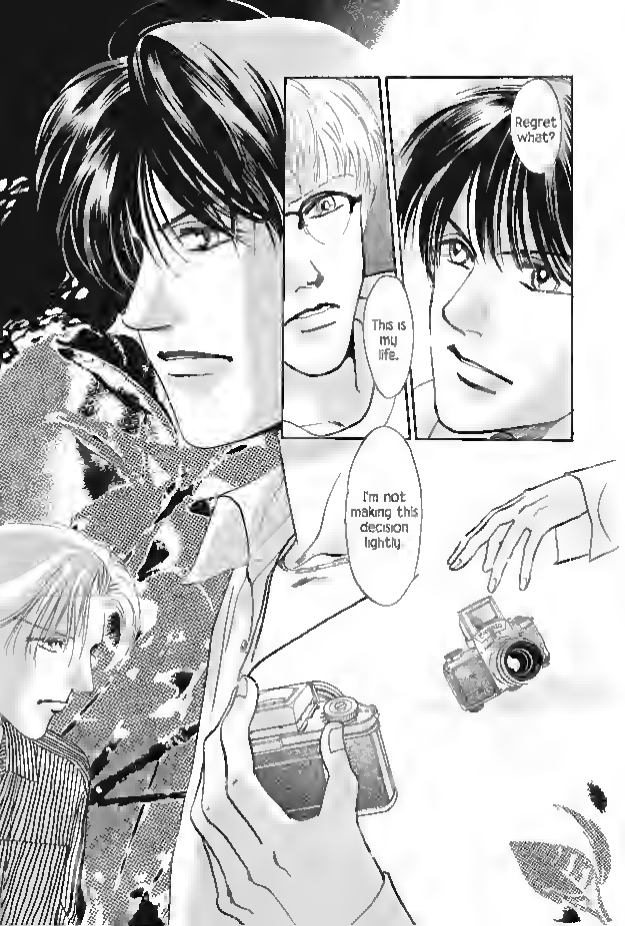
I'd never leave you all alone.
SQUEEZE

HUG
I'll make you fall in love with me
Stop ..
Ritsuro?
We can't do this out here.. what if someone sees us?

...KEN.
204
KEN AMAFUJI
MAYBE MOEKO'S RIGHT...
...MAYBE I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO STOP YOU ANYMORE...
You didn't even lock the door. That's not safe.
J?
Oh, you were asleep? At this hour?
Are you not feeling well? Or is something...

All night?
You know, packing and stuff
STRETCH
I'm just tired. I was up all night. Sorry I'll get up now.
...bothering you?
You're so rumpled...
That's fine
I got my visa. I could only get a tourist visa though
RUSTLE
Tomorrow night huh?
I got 'em. We're leaving tomorrow night. Will you be ready by then?
What about the tickets?
Ken?
So, do you think I've got time to get a visa for Singapore too?

My two-year lease on this apartment will be up soon...
...I'll speak to my landlord ...
What are you talking about? What about Ritsuro?
He's got exams, and I'll just get in his way.
What should I do with all the stuff in this apartment?
Are you really OK with this?
Won't you regret it?


Regret what?
This is my life.
I'm not making this decision lightly.

KEN...
Are you calling Ken?
What?
Ken said he needed to talk to you
Oh...?
He came to our house last night
But Dad was home so he kicked him out.
He was even hanging around the park this morning
I think he was waiting for you all night, outside in the freezing cold
HE WAITED ALL NIGHT FOR ME?

Are you OK? You're all pale
Huh? Aren't you gonna call him?
It's kinda weird him staying there all night. Like he was a stalker or something
You told him that?
He gave up and went home though when I told him you were staying at Iwasaki's
DID HE FIND OUT ABOUT KAZUYOSHI AND ME?
...IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER HE KNOWS OR NOT...
NO.
CLICK
SHUT
BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS, I CHEATED ON HIM

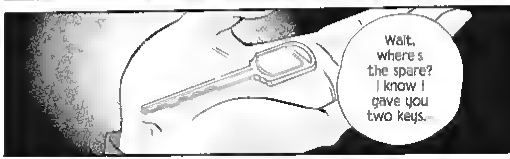
I GAVE MY ENTIRE BODY TO KAZUYOSHI THAT DAY
I love you.
I'd do anything for you I would!

I FEEL LIKE...
...I'M BEING TORN APART.
I COULDN'T SAY NO.
WHY DIDN'T I JUST...

Oh, you fly out tonight?
You sure are in a hurry
So I can get rid of the TV and the furniture then?
Those were the only tickets I could get you see
Yes.

...WHY DIDN'T I JUST LISTEN TO WHAT KEN WAS TRYING TO TELL ME?!

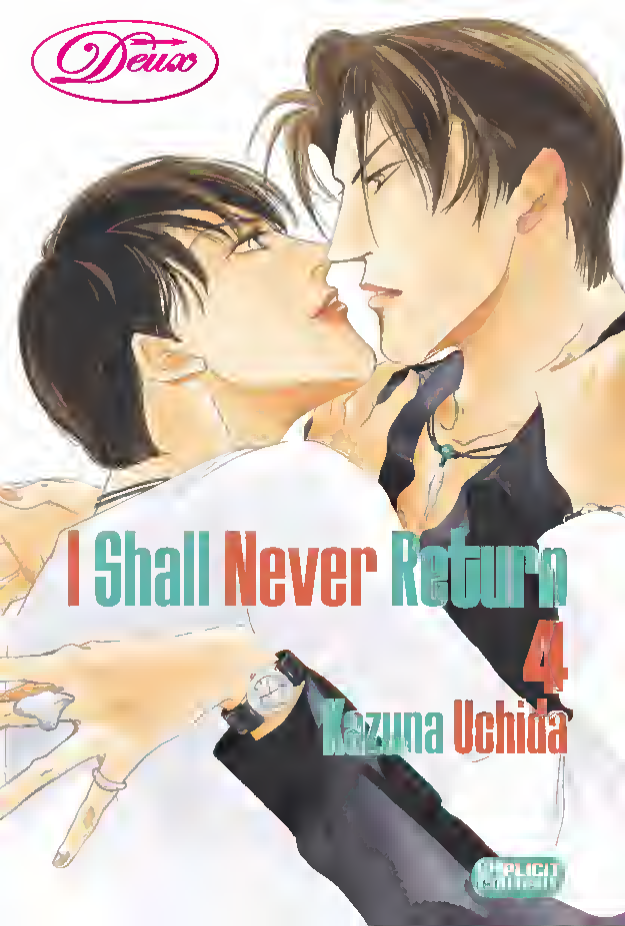
SHOVE
SHOVE
Ken, she needs the key.
Oh! The key!
POUND


Wait, where's the spare? I know I gave you two keys.

I'm sorry my mother must've taken it with her to Singapore. I'll send it back once I get there.
OK. Please don't forget!

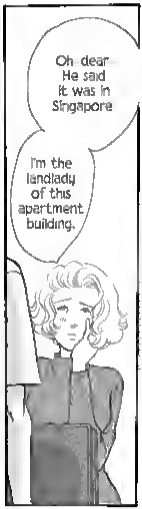
J, the sunset's so nice.
THUNK
Ken...
Don't say anything.
I won't regret it, OK?

Shall we?
I called your mother. She said she's cooking up a feast for us.
She was as excited as a little kid
VRRRM
STEP

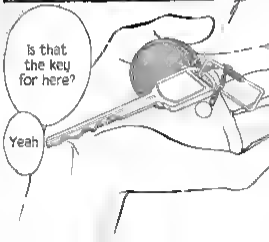

Deux
I Shall Never Return
4
Kazuna Uchida
EXPLICIT CONTENT

You're Mr. Amafuji's friend?
Hmm?

THE LANDLADY? WHY'S THE LANDLADY IN KEN'S APARTMENT?
Isn't it nice that Ken will be living with his mother? His stepfather came to get him


Oh dear He said it was in Singapore
I'm the landlady of this apartment building.

Y-Yes..
?


CLINK
Is that the key for here?
Yeah

DOES THAT MEAN...
You mean he moved out?!
They're flying out tonight.
You didn't know?
I'll take this. After all, you won't be needing it anymore
WHAT?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
KEN'S GOING TO LIVE IN SINGAPORE?!
CLANG

IT'S ALL MY FAULT..
I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE FELT...
DASH
I BETRAYED HIM...
..IS HE EVER COMING BACK?!
Ritsuro?!
HE CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR LIKE THIS...
NO!

Ritsuro! Wait—
Ritsu
You went to Ken's apartment .. You still have feelings for him!
Kazu-yoshi Why...?
I knew it was wrong not to trust you but I had to follow you!
I don't want him to take you away from me!
...IT CAN'T END THIS WAY!

Ken's leaving
Ritsuro!
I'm sorry I have to go...
...to the airport.
Huh?
...without even saying goodbye

ITAMI AIRPORT
SLAM
ZOOM
TAXI
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

10 30 HONG KONG
20 05 SINGAPORE
20 40 SEOUL
21 15 HONG KONG
CX50
AI 318
KE706
Attention
Please check your baggage in the main lobby before proceeding to customs.
Passengers departing for Singapore on Air India flight 318.
THAT'S IT!
Ha
PLEASE WAIT IN THE LOBBY. I'LL BE SURE TO SEE HIM.

Kazu-yoshi...?
Ken
SWISH
C'mere. I need to talk to you.
Ken?
I'll be right back, J.

Wha-?
What are you talking about?
You can't have Ritsuro
Ritsuro and I slept together
More than once
I'm the one who's going to make him happy

You can't make him happy. You wanna go so badly, you don't even care about leaving him alone!
Is Ritsuro here?
Kiiizu-yoshi!
...
How could you just leave without saying anything to him?
Ritsuro found out from the landlady.
...

He.. went to my apartment? Hm
How can you be so damn calm?! Aren't you pissed? I'm telling you I fucked him!
I'm trying to pick a fight here!
Kazu-yoshi—

I don't have the right to be angry at him.
I know it was hard for him.
I ended up hurting him so many times.
...Ritsuro accepted me for who I was, even when I was living a sordid life.
Take care of Ritsuro.
If he's happy with you that's all I care about.

That's it?!
See ya Kazuyoshi.
Ken...
Let's go!
Wait...

Wait, Ken
Are you really OK with all of this?
It's rude to eavesdrop. J
GRIP
Hold on!
I don't want you to go if it means lying to yourself
I'm not lying. I really just want him to be happy—

Shut up!
If it hurts, just say so.
Then why won't you look at me?
So I say it hurts then what? What will blaming Kazuyoshi and Ritsuro get me?
KEN?!
I just want my dream to come true J

STEP
I'm thankful you invited me.
I think that if I don't go I'll regret it my whole life.

Ritsu
ro...

I'm leaving.
WE'RE FINALLY FACE TO FACE AND
WHY?
...I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING LET ALONE STOP HIM
Yeah
ARE WE REALLY GOING TO

FTTT
J?!
What're you doing?!
Ritsuro ...

I DON'T...
You need to help make Ken's dream come true!
—WANT US TO END LIKE THIS.

DON'T GO.
Take care of yourself.
PLEASE DON'T GO, KEN!
Write me... OK?

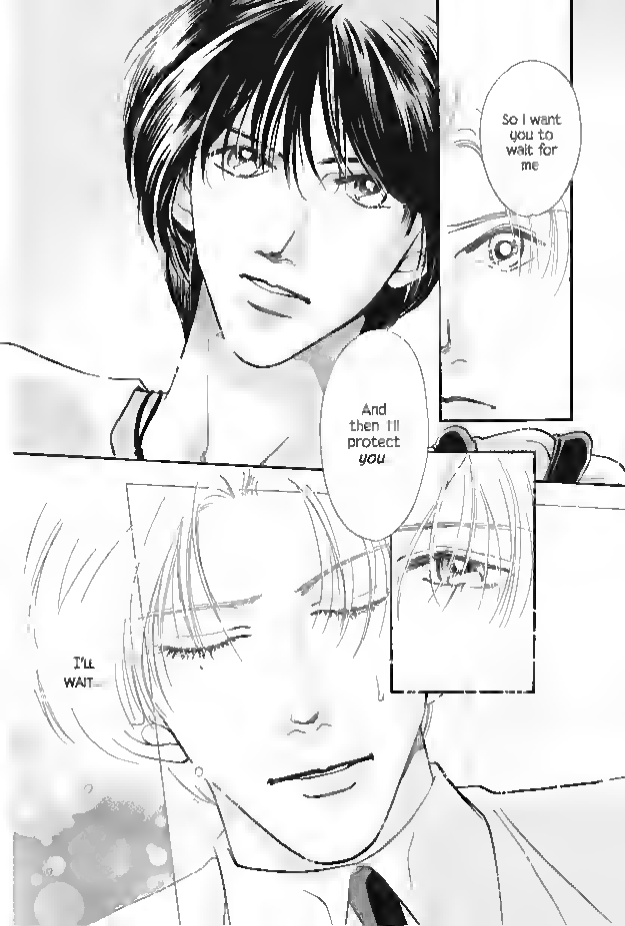
OH, NO
And show me— the pictures..
you take
Yeah
DON'T LEAVE ME!
I'M SAYING SOMETHING SELFISH.
SAYING THINGS I SHOULDN'T...

Ritsuro ..
WRENCH
Send me the best photos. OK?
OK?
Sure ..

Final boarding for passengers of India Air flight 318.
Please proceed to the departure gate immediately
WHAT CAN I DO TO STOP THIS FROM ENDING RIGHT NOW?
"I'LL WAIT FOR YOU?"
THAT'S RICH I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY THAT, NOT AFTER KAZUYOSHI AND I...
...BUT..

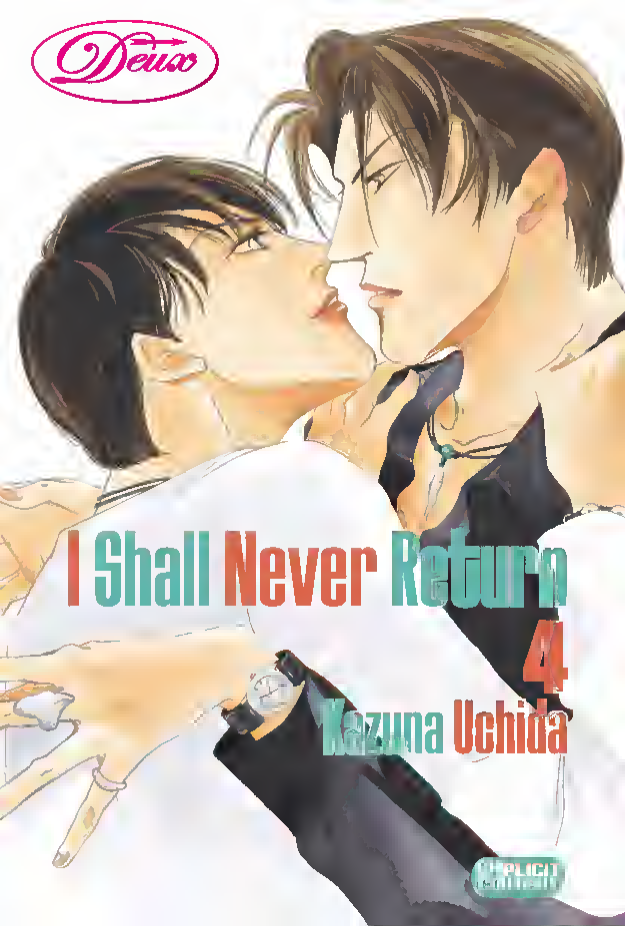
IF I SAY THAT NOW, I'LL END UP HURTING KAZUYOSHI.
"I'LL WAIT FOR YOU."
BUT...
I WILL... WAIT FOR YOU.
...I'LL WAIT FOR YOU.
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU, KEN

I promised you, remember?
I promised you I'm gonna change
I'll change so much that no one will be able to remember how I used to be
Huh?


So I want you to wait for me
And then I'll protect *you*
I'll WAIT

I'll wait for you.
..KEN.
I will.
Ritsuro ..

I WON'T WAVER ANYMORE.
I'M SURE ABOUT THIS.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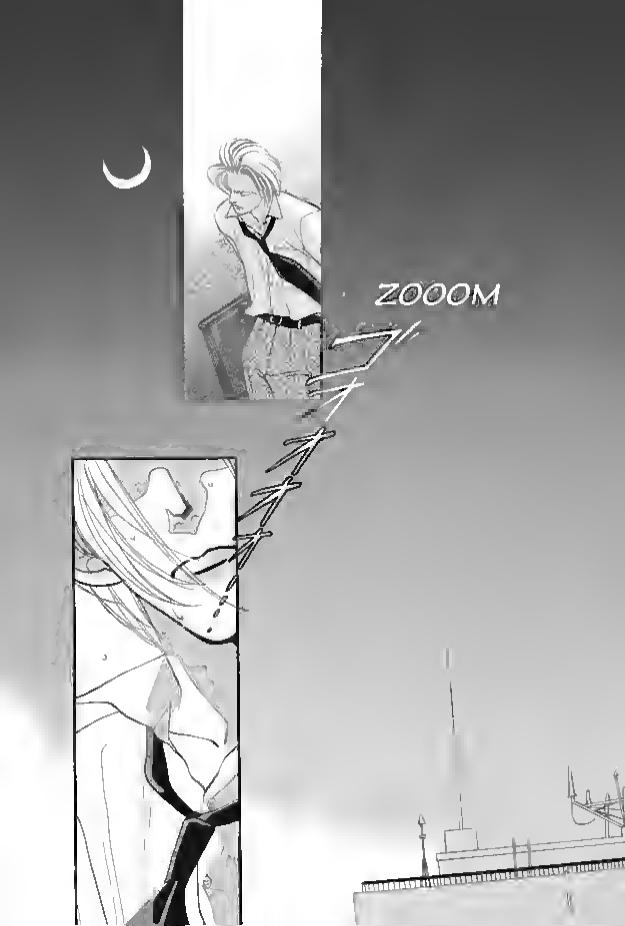

ZOOOM

JULY
AND SO,
THE RAINY SEASON FINALLY ENDED.
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
Hey, you going somewhere for break?
Yeah, to prep class, dumbass
Final Exams
Schedule for Day S
First Period:
AM 9:00 ~ 9:55
Second Period:
Japanese History
AM 10:15 ~ 11:10
It's finally over!

KAZUYOSHI HASN'T EVEN LOOKED AT ME SINCE THEN
CLANK
I ENDED UP HURTING SOMEONE AGAIN
JUST LIKE I DID WITH MOEKO
I'M SORRY, KAZUYOSHI...

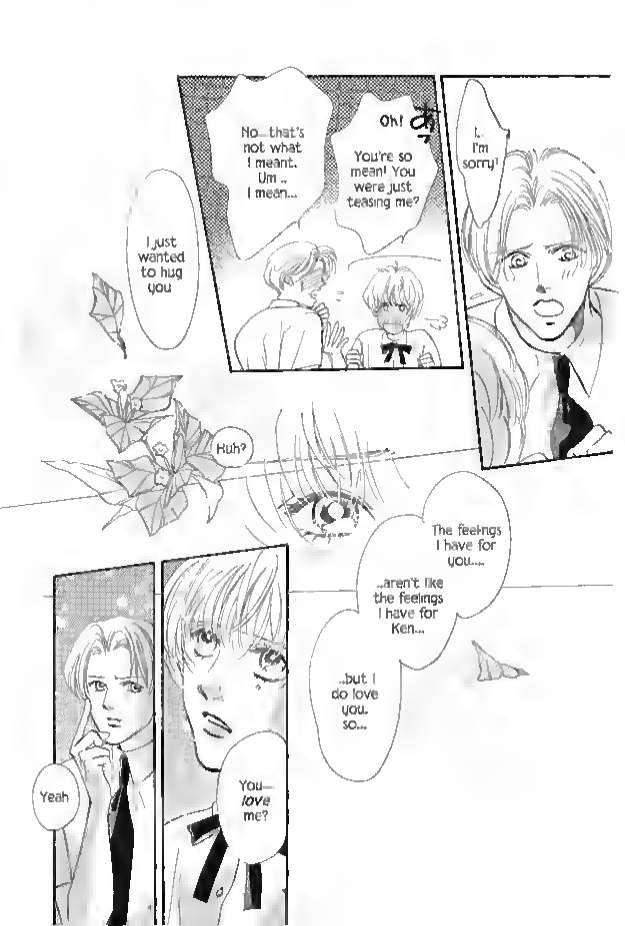
Huh?
Ritsuro!
RUSTLE
Moeko?!
Excuse me. Could I get one of these?
Florist Marron

Here, hold this.
Huh?
It's a present!
Today's the Star Festival, after all!
And your birthday!
MOEKO?!
I THOUGHT SHE HATED ME AFTER WHAT HAPPENED WITH KAZUYOSHI...
Excuse us!

SLIDE
I wish for Ken to get home safely.
-Moeko
You remembered.
Happy eighteenth!
MOEKO.
I wish for Ken to get home safely
I'm so glad it's clear! We'll be able to see the Milky Way
SHE FORGIVES ME.
What should I wish for?
SHE'S TRYING TO CHEER ME UP ABOUT KEN.
I'm sure you guys'll be OK even if you're apart
Love conquers all!

Moe, ko
TH THUMP
I won't
Fine but don't laugh!
FLUTTER
Why not?
Hey don't look!
I wish for love!
Moeko
MOEKO
Huh?

MOEKO...
You wished for love.
Ritsuro?
SQUEEZE
You idiot, you've got Ken!
Friendship is also a kind of love, right?
What?
Don't you think so?
I do, but...


I just wanted to hug you
No—that's not what I meant. Um... I mean...
Oh!
You're so mean! You were just teasing me?
I... I'm sorry!
Huh?
The feelings I have for you...
...aren't like the feelings I have for Ken...
...but I do love you. so...
Yeah
You—love me?

I'm so happy
Hey...
...will you do it again?
THANKS, MOEKO...
I wish for Kim to get home safely...
I won't be embarrassed this time...

I DON'T CARE IF I'M THE ONE WHO GETS HURT THIS TIME.
I CAN'T CALL YOU MY LOVER, BUT I CAN..
SHOW YOU HOW I FEEL.
I wish Kazuyoshi happiness
-Ritsuro

555H
555H
555H

CABIN
RIING
RIING
RIING
Ritsuro
Huh?
Kazuyoshi! Ritsuro's on the phone
I got it.

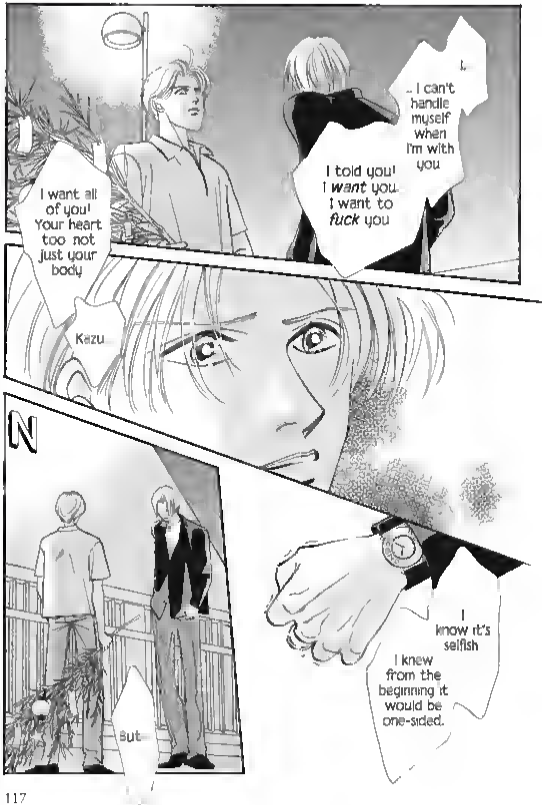
STEP

It's the Star Festival after all
I don't care about the Star Festival and I don't have time to listen to the wishes of long distance lovers
Kazuyoshi
Huh?
I'm eighteen today

I'm sorry
So? What do you want from *me*?
It's your birthday? I didn't know
Really... the festival and my birthday..
It's just an excuse to talk to you
TH THUMP
Don't say anything else that'll get my hopes up
You really think I came here without an ulterior motive?

Kazu-yoshi ...
You think you're safe 'cuz you chose to meet me in a place with a lot of people?
You think I won't do anything just because they're here?
...can't we just be friends?!
What're you talking about?!
You're like a woman to me
Men and women can just be friends, right?

I like you, Kazuyoshi.
I don't wanna be the guy who can't tell the people he likes how he feels
What are you saying?
Not the way that I like you!


I want all of you! Your heart too not just your body
I told you! I *want* you. I want to *fuck* you
... I can't handle myself when I'm with you
Kazu
I know it's selfish
I knew from the beginning it would be one-sided.
But

...am I not good enough for you?

I'm in love
..with Ken
Don't I have any chance at all?!
Ritsuro.
GRAB
I'll never feel like this about anyone again.
For you, I could..
KAZUYOSHI...

RUSTLE
How many times do I have to tell you before you get it?!
KAZUYOSHI...
I'll keep telling you until I die
I love you!
A hundred? A thousand?
A million? A billion?!
RUSTLE

I'M SO ARROGANT...
I wish Kazuyoshi happiness. -Kitaro-
SLUMP
..TO THINK I CAN MAKE HIM HAPPY JUST BY WISHING HARD ENOUGH.
..BUT IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE IT MADE THINGS EASIER FOR ME.
UNTIL JUST NOW
I THOUGHT THAT

I'M SUCH A HYPOCRITE!
IT WAS JUST HYPOCRISY.
KEN..
...I WANNA SEE YOU.

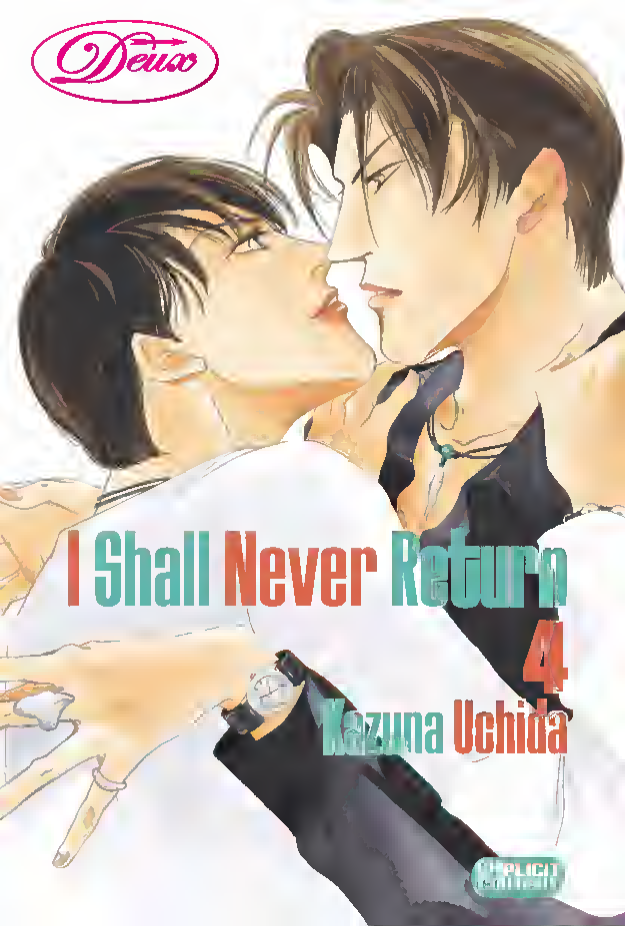
YOSHINARI
KNOCK KNOCK
Big Bro are you awake?
Hmm?
SHOCK
What's this?
Huh?!

CLACK
Ken Amafuji
Well, I couldn't bring it in when you were with a girl...
Good night, Mr. "Stud Muffin"!
Why'd you wait so long?
Airmail...
KEN!
FLUTTER
Dear Ritsuro

Happy Birthday~I wanted to call you but I'm in India right now. We're in a tiny village. I can't even call it a town, with no phones. I was worried about even being able to buy stamps. Sorry.
By the way, this is a picture that J took of me. As you can see, I cut my hair.
Mom gave me a haircut when I got to Singapore. J says that if you let your hair get too long in India, it gets really hot, so he always has Mom cut his before he goes. I look like I'm in middle school again. Don't I have a baby face?

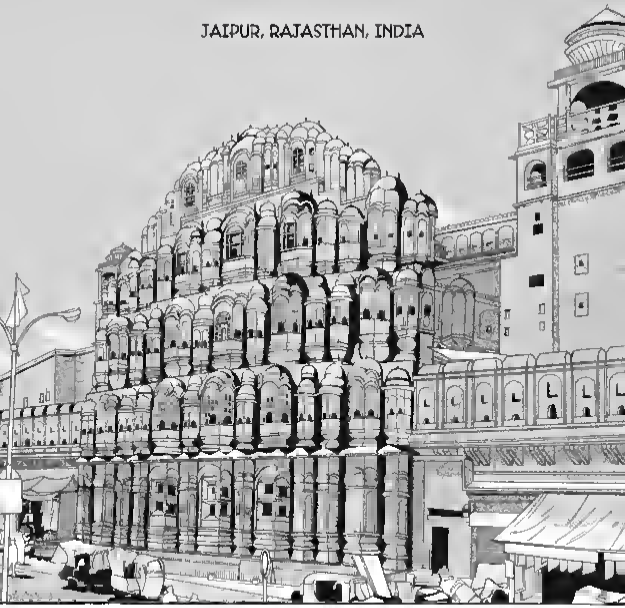
RUSTLE
There should be a little packet inside this letter
Oh yeah This letter should reach you before your birthday
So I'm enclosing your birthday present.
I know it's not much but I want you to think of that ring as me
That way I'll always be with you
I
...I'm gonna be OK.

I know things are gonna work out
I wish for Kan to get home safely. -Akemi
THAT NIGHT I TURNED EIGHTEEN A LITTLE BEFORE YOU DID
I SENT A THOUGHT TO YOU THROUGH THE DISTANCE.
I THOUGHT...
..I LOVE YOU


Deux
I Shall Never Return
4
Kazuna Uchida
EXPLICIT CONTENT

AND I FELT AS THOUGH I COULD SEE THE THOUSANDS OF GLITTERING STARS THAT SHONE ABOVE YOU.

JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN, INDIA



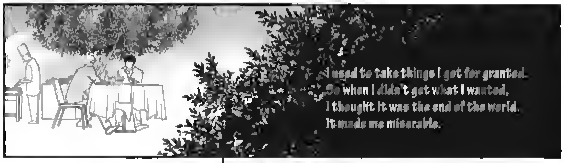
Dear Ritsuro,

Starting today, we'll spend three days in a town called Jaipur. The main street is all pink. Even all the buildings are painted pink and they make the sky above look that much bluer. It's really pretty.

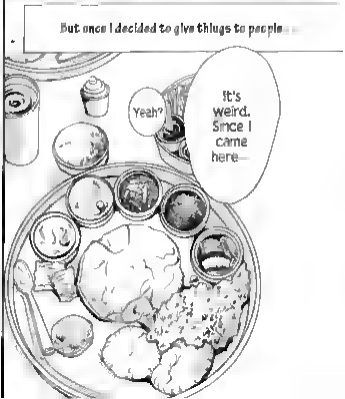
This will be our third week in India. I'm pretty used to the food by now. The one bad thing is that there's no where to develop all the photos we're taking. We've gone through twenty rolls of film already, so even if we found a photo place in one of the cities we could never develop them all. I can't wait to see them though.
THUNK
This is the first time we've had a room with air-conditioning isn't it?
Phew! It's so nice and cool.
I want to see more of India. I've never felt this alive before.

JUMP
がばっ
FLSSH
Hey the toilet flushes!
And we've got hot water!
Huh?
Since I've been here I've learned to be thankful for little things
SHHH
CLICK
God that felt great!

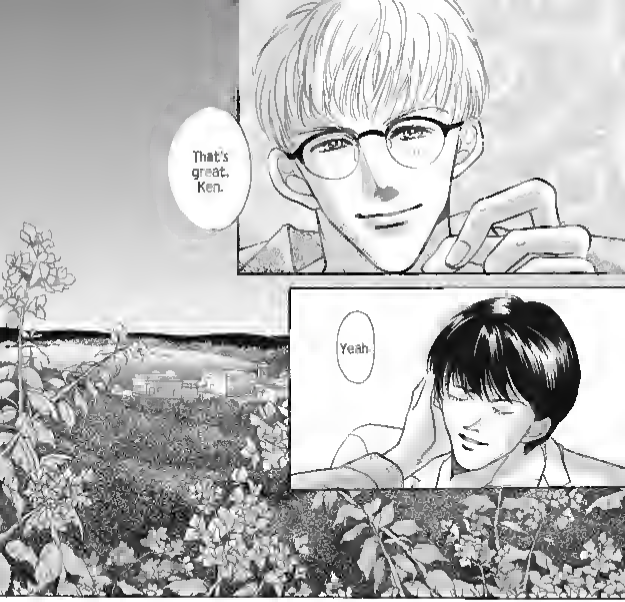
Well.
...should we have ourselves a feast?
Huh.


I used to take things I got for granted.
So when I didn't get what I wanted, I thought it was the end of the world.
It made me miserable.

Ahaha
I'd say it's a huge thing to find food this good.
That's true!
—I'd never been so happy about things like flushing toilets, or hot water


But once I decided to give things to people...
Yeah?
It's weird. Since I came here—

I did
You said you wanted to show me ways to break out of my shell right?
Hmm?
J?
I'm glad I came with you
I think I'm starting to figure things out.
Thanks, Dad

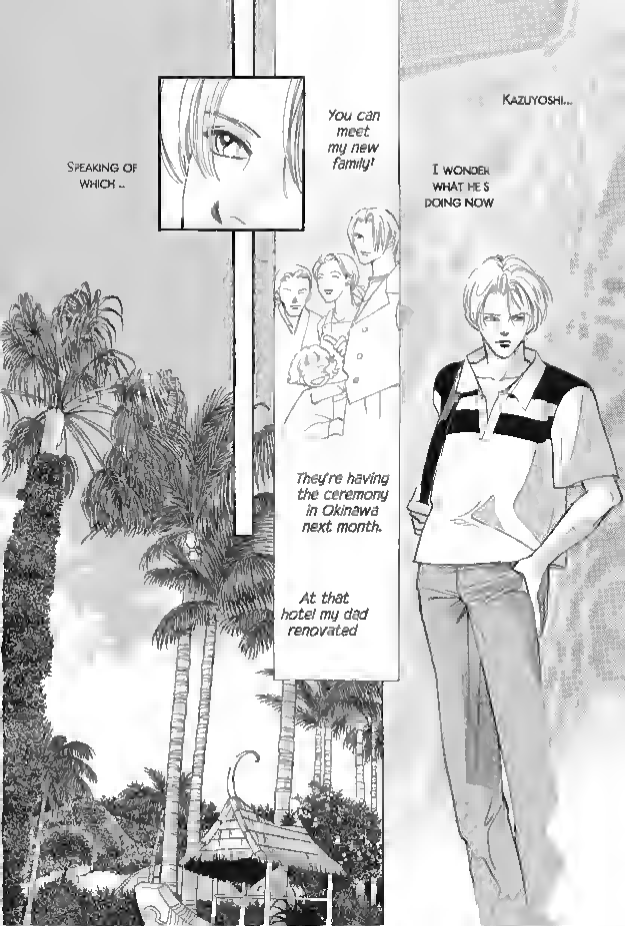


I can see things I couldn't see before
I understand now, just how sweet
you were to me, Ritsuno

I can't wait to see you

I'M FUMBLING MY WAY FORWARD
OSAKA
Summer School Registration
BUT I WANT TO KEEP GOING, EVEN IF I HAVE TO STUMBLE ALONG THE WAY
It's so hot...
JUST LIKE YOU PUT EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT INTO PHOTOGRAPHY—
I WANT TO FIND A DREAM OF MY OWN.

Ken...
...I'VE DECIDED TO WAIT FOR YOU IN OSAKA.
BZZZ
BZZZ
If it's this hot in Japan, it must be way hotter in India.
KAZUYOSHI AND I..
We'll go to Tokyo together
Am I not good enough for you?
Do I have any chance at all?!

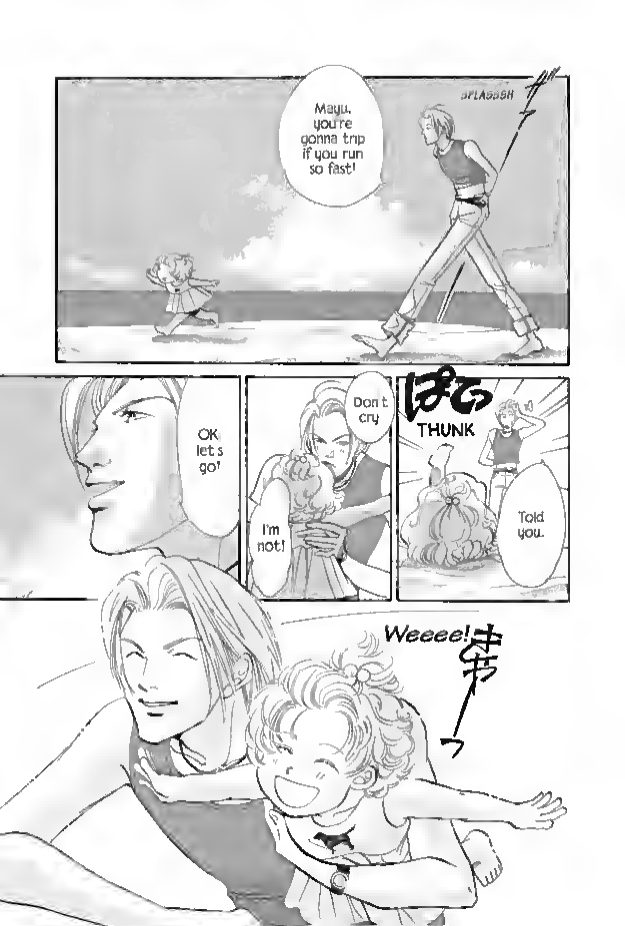

KAZUYOSHI...
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING NOW
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
You can meet my new family!
They're having the ceremony in Okinawa next month.
At that hotel my dad renovated

OKINAWA
Mayu
Big Brudder! Look!
Here!
What's this? Bougainvillea?
GIGGLE
Hey!
Mayu
C'mon! C'mon!
And there are blue fish over there!
GRAB

Thank you
Congratulations on your marriage.
Mr. Iwasaki! We've been waiting for you and your wife!
President Iwasaki!
So is Kamishiro here yet?
Oh, you're here!
Mr. President! Nice to see you!

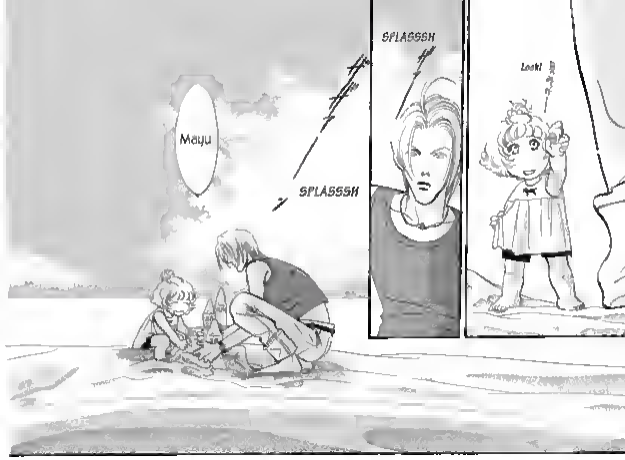
Nice to meet you
He's my right-hand man.
Kamishiro may be young but he's an amazing designer. He helped out a lot with the building of this hotel.
Ah sou
Let me introduce you to my son and daughter
Kazuyoshi and Mayu
Nice to meet you.
GLANCE
pop
I'm Shuichi Kamishiro. I'll be helping the President of Iwasaki Architecture begin his new life
This is my wife Yukie Say "hi" Yukie
What a cutie! How old are you?
Four.
Really!

You and your brother are so close
Just like *real* siblings
SMILE
Wanna go to the beach Mayu?
Yay! Beach!
Kazuyoshi, don't tire Mayu out!
She's a little tomboy, isn't she?
Yukie ...
Yes, darling?
Well she is a handful
SPLASSSH
SPLASSSH

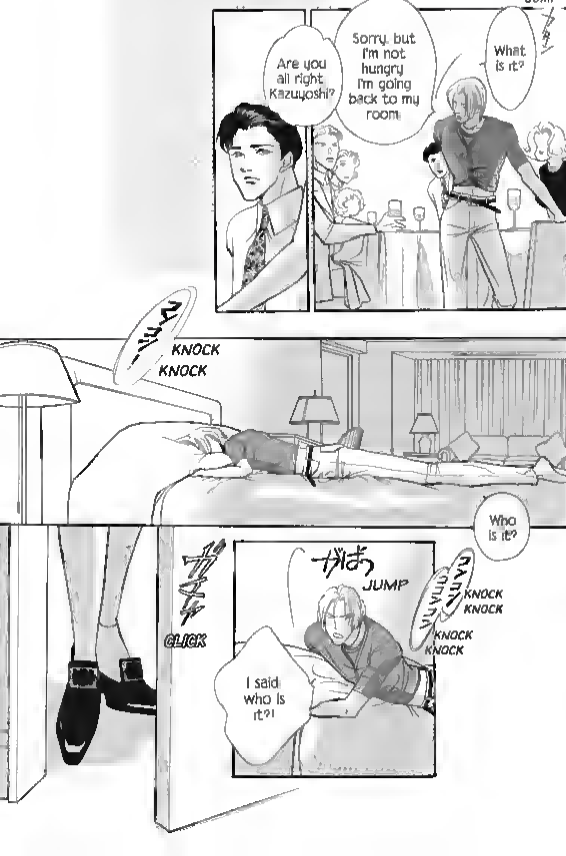

Mayu, you're gonna trip if you run so fast!
SPLASSSH
Don't cry
I'm not!
ぽろ
THUNK
Told you.
OK, let's go!
Weeee!

SPLASSSH

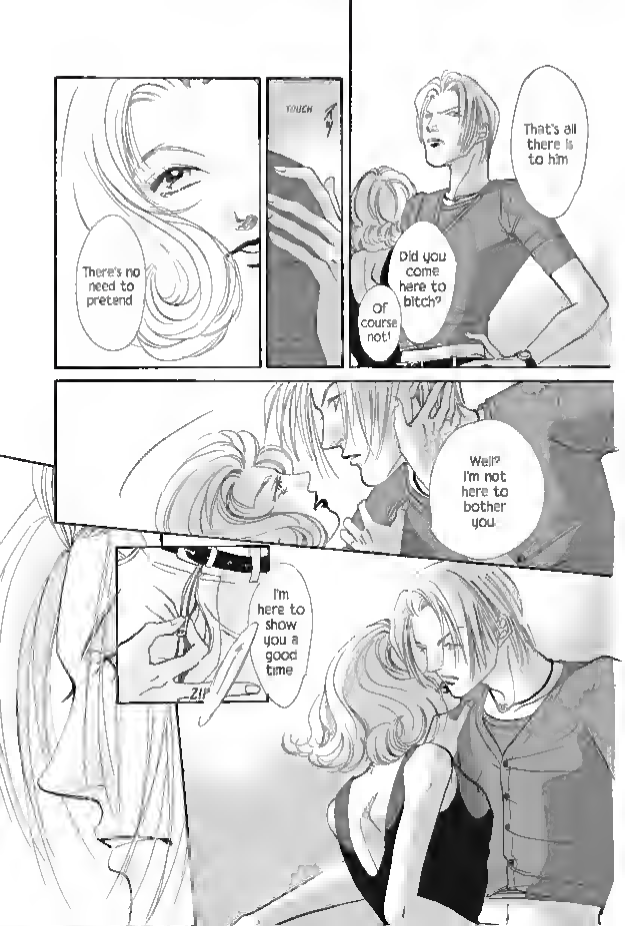
It's been two months...
I don't want to hate you. I want to understand you
You're really weak
You lash out and hurt people like you're carrying a knife because inside, you're fragile
But you can't do that in the arms of the person you love, can you?
It's easy to hurt people.
Easy to be cruel.
But...


SPLASSSH
Look!
Mayu
SPLASSSH

Oh, so you're going to study architecture at college?
You'll be following in your father's footsteps That's wonderful.
I'm sure you'll be a great architect Kazuyoshi


JUMP
What is it?
Sorry, but I'm not hungry. I'm going back to my room.
Are you all right, Kazuyoshi?
KNOCK KNOCK
Who is it?
JUMP
KNOCK KNOCK
KNOCK KNOCK
CLICK
I said who is it?!

CLICK
Excuse me
You
You want something?
Say, what do you think of my husband?
Huh?
He's so serious. He's good at his job, but he's so boring.
Why are you asking?
You'll be president of the company someday. I wondered if you thought he was capable


That's all there is to him
Did you come here to bitch?
Of course not!
TOUCH
There's no need to pretend
Well? I'm not here to bother you
I'm here to show you a good time
ZIP

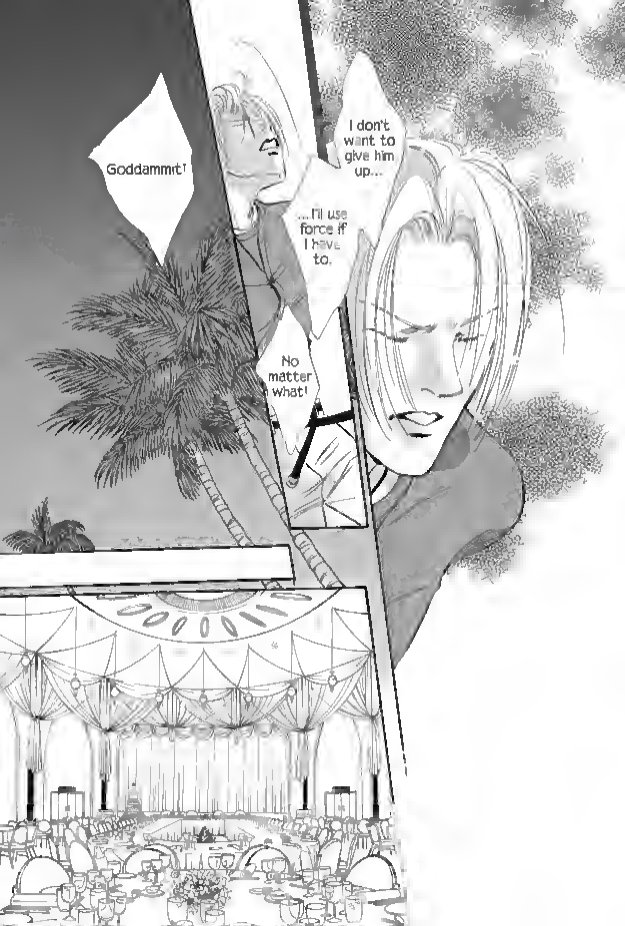
You look like you get around.
You're just my type
Have you ever been with an older woman before?
Get out
PUSH
Wha ?!
BAM
You can't give me what I want!
Eee!
Leave, now!

Yukie?
What?! If you didn't want to, you should've said so in the first place!
JUMP
Shu...
No...
He's horrible! He thinks he can do anything just because he's the president's son!
Yukie
And then he came on to me
He asked me to come to his room

I'm sorry about my wife.
STEP
I truly apologize
W-Wait a minute, Shu!
You don't believe me?!
You're the one who came on to him
Don't treat me like I'm some slut!
I know how you are
GRRR
This is crazy Are you two really husband and wife?
Huh?

You call yourself a man? Don't you have any pride?
Um...
What would you do if I told you I fucked your wife?
What would you do if another man really came on to her?
It...
it can't be helped
I mean look at me.
HMPH!

Once you get what you want, you gotta protect what's yours!
You two piss me off!
Go!
Get out!
SLAM


Goddammit!
I don't want to give him up...
...I'll use force if I have to.
No matter what!

I've been thinking about what you said
If Yukie .. if my wife fall in love with another man ..
I'd wish her happiness
That's my way of doing things
I wouldn't want...
...to tie her down

It's not right to tie someone down just because they're your spouse or your lover.
It doesn't matter whether we're husband and wife or boyfriend and girlfriend. I just want her to be happy.
The reason I let Yukie do what she wants is because I need to stay true to my beliefs.
I'll see you later.
now
Yes.
I didn't want you to think I was pathetic
Is that your answer for last night?

That Kamishiro guy...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Damn...

...I'm kinda jealous of him
And now we come to the end of the semester

SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
I hope you're all ready!
Here are your exam results!
げげ～
DREAD
CLATTER
Seat number one
KAZUYOSHI ...
...DOESN'T LOOK SO WELL.
Kazu-yoshi Iwasaki!

WHAT'S HE THINKING?
GRUMPLE
No way!
He got a 90?
Iwasaki?!
You're the only one in the class who got a 90% in Physics.
Good work.
DOES HE STILL FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME?
Next up is number two!
Hey hey Moeko
Iwasaki's not bad is he? ♡

Man...
No way!
Are you saving him for yourself?
What? What're you talking about? Why can't I like him?
H-Hold on, do you need new glasses or something?
I give up...
I might as well go for someone younger
Yeah but a teacher and a student? That's too weird.
...what about Mr. Yumioka?
TA-DAH
Is she here?
I... I'm here!
Moeko Kobashi!
THUMP
Wha-?!
Besides...
...Mr. Yumioka's totally into you Moeko.

S-Sorry
You did better than on the mid-terms
Good job!
Thank you

Oh sorry!
Hey, I can hear you
Will you guys stop acting like I'm an idiot?
No wonder he applied for Todai.
I totally thought he was kidding!
Iwasaki's something, huh?
When the hell did he study?

HE HASN'T LOOKED AT ME ONCE.
So tomorrow's the beginning of vacation.
Relax for the summer but don't forget you have a big exam coming up
See you all next semester!
KAZUYOSHI...
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
KAZUYOSHI...
DING

I'm going to Tokyo by myself.
That's all I can say right now.

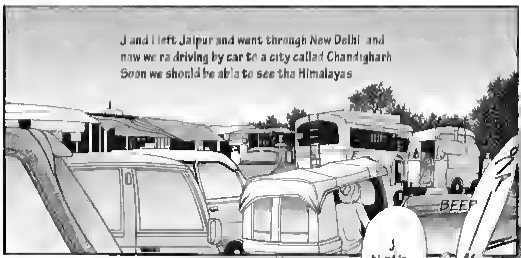
That's it.

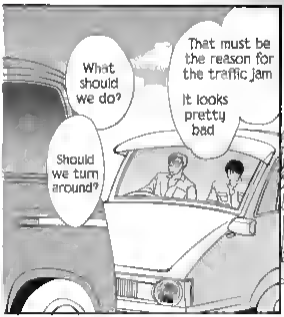
I CAN'T EVEN BE NEAR HIM.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
IF I TELL HIM I LIKE HIM AGAIN, I'LL JUST HURT HIM.

KEN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Ken!
FLUTTER
FLOWER?

Dear Ritsuro

Did you get my second letter?


J and I left Jaipur and went through New Delhi and now we're driving by car to a city called Chandigharh
Soon we should be able to see the Himalayas
BEEP
J
that's..
BEEP



The roads are really primitive dusty and bumpy so we see bad accidents all the time We see them so much that I've gotten used to them It's like I'm numb to the sight now Survival of the fittest and all that

But that day it shook me somehow

I could never have predicted what was going to happen...
SCREECH
!!
Oh
SNAP

The story continues in *I Shall Never Return Volume 5*

I Shall Never Return
5
The emotional conclusion to the beautiful and complex yaoi classic!
Kazuna Uchida
Deux
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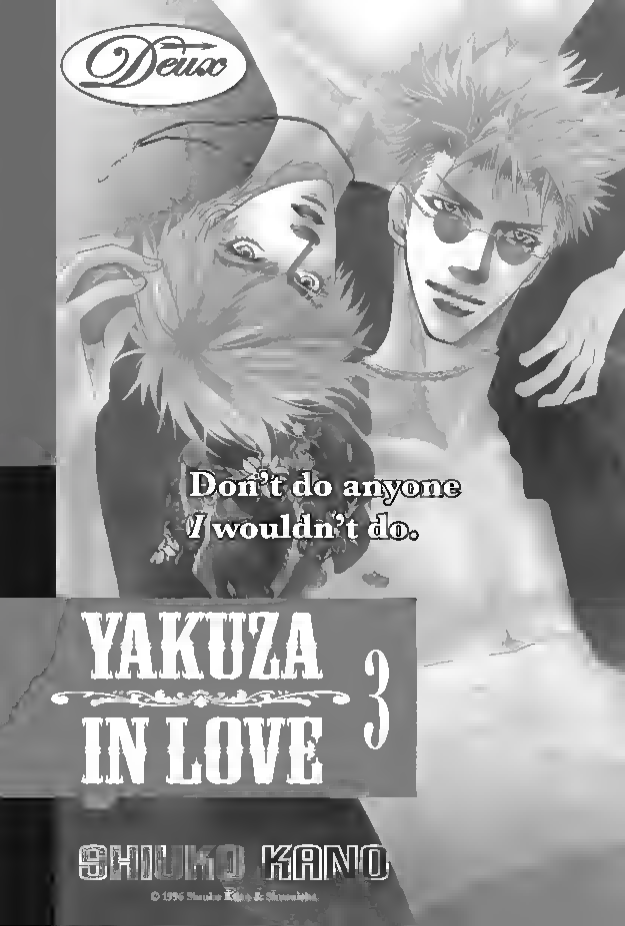

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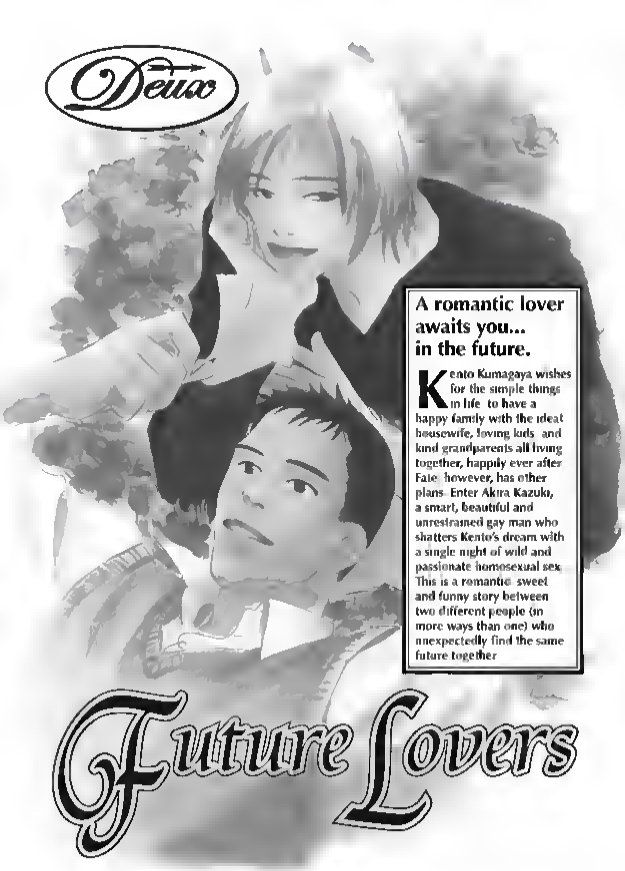
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Kento Kumagaya wishes for the simple things in life: to have a happy family with the ideal housewife, loving kids, and kind grandparents all living together, happily ever after. Fate, however, has other plans. Enter Akira Kazuki, a smart, beautiful and unrestrained gay man who shatters Kento's dream with a single night of wild and passionate homosexual sex. This is a romantic, sweet and funny story between two different people (in more ways than one) who unexpectedly find the same future together.
Future Lovers

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Where Fantasy Becomes Obsession...

This is the back of the book. Read from right to left.

◀ ◀ ◀ ◀ ◀ Turn over & enjoy! ◀ ◀ ◀ ◀ ◀

I Shall Never Return

4

I Shall Never Return • Volume 4

Story and Art by Kazuma Uchida

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